



State of North Carolina
Office of the Governor

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Contact: Cari Boyce/Fred Hartman
Phone: (919) 733-5612

N.C. GOVERNOR MIKE EASLEY HOSTS MULTI-STATE TEXTILE SUMMIT
Calls on Washington to Assist Industry

RALEIGH, N.C.—Gov. Mike Easley today hosted a regional textile summit – including Gov. Roy Barnes (GA), and Gov. Jim Hodges (SC) – to discuss ways to bolster the ailing industry. The summit was held in Gaston County at Gaston College.

"We must all work together to get the textile industry going and growing again," Easley said. "The industry, workers, and states will do our part but at the federal level, the new 'Textile Working Group' needs to become quickly the 'Textile Results Group.' Agencies across the federal government must move aggressively to assist textile manufacturers and workers. Every day the issue is discussed rather than acted upon, factories close and jobs are lost."

At the conclusion of the summit, the Governors signed a letter to President Bush asking him to take immediate and specific action to help the textile industry.

The action items included the following:

- Direct the International Trade Commission to move aggressively to combat widespread "dumping" of textile goods on U.S. markets and to address the failure of trading partners to open their markets to U.S. exports of textile and apparel products, as committed in prior agreements.
- Provide the U.S. Customs Service with the additional staff and resources necessary to crack down on illegal smuggling and other customs fraud, which leads to billions of dollars in lost sales for our textile industry every year.
- Direct the U.S. Trade Representative to consider whether trading partners have already achieved competitive advantage through currency devaluation in determining whether or not to allow further adjustments or tariff reductions for textiles in future trade negotiations.
- Help our unemployed textile workers get the full two years of training and the Associates Degree that they need to secure a job at a sustainable wage, extend the Trade Adjustment Assistance program from 18 months to 24 months and expand the program to include health care coverage for those without coverage.